

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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## BIG FLEET OF ALLIED AEROS RAID BELGIUM

Sixty-five British, French and Belgium Aircraft Shell Aviation Camp Near Zeebrugge—Each Aeroplane Carries 200 Pounds of Bombs, and All Return Safely After Attack—Heavy Damage is Reported.

London, March 20—Sixty-five allied aeroplanes today bombed the aerodrome at Houtaave near Zeebrugge. All returned. Considerable damage was done, says an official report, and a Belgian officer was badly wounded.

The following official statement was made: "In the early hours of this morning a combined force of approximately 50 British, French, and Belgian aeroplanes and seaplanes, accompanied by 15 fighting machines, left and attacked the German seaplane station at Zeebrugge and the aerodrome at Houtaave, near Zeebrugge.

"Considerable damage appears to have been done. The machines on the average carried 200 pounds of bombs. All the machines returned safely.

"One Belgian officer is reported seriously wounded.

"All the British machines referred to were naval."

Zeebrugge is on the Belgian coast 12 miles northeast of Ostend. It is one of the principal points from which submarine operations in the north are directed.

**DANISH STEAMER SUNK**  
London, March 20—The Danish steamer Skodsborg, of 1,437 tons has been sunk. Seventeen members of the crew were saved, three being missing.

## LEADERS OF MACHINISTS' ORGANIZATION TO SPEAK AT MEETINGS TOMORROW

Spring activities of the International Association of Machinists in this city will begin tomorrow. C. T. Nicholson of Salt Lake City, Robert Tegner of Savannah and Thomas Savage of Boston, members of the general executive board of the machinists, and First Vice President J. F. Anderson of St. Louis, will come here.

These leading lights in the association will address more than 2,000 machinists in Sokol hall tomorrow. Smokers and business meetings will be held at 8 o'clock in the morning and at 8 o'clock in the evening.

The separation of the Remington

## NEW HOSPITAL IN COUNTY JAIL NOW READY FOR SICK

No Immediate Demand For New Buildings, Says Sheriff Pease.

The new hospital at the county jail has been opened and County Sheriff Pease believes it will prove a fine investment. It will be a great convenience to the jail authorities for they will not have to send cases of minor ailments to St. Vincent's or the Bridgeport hospital as in the past. This will also mean a decrease in expense for the county.

The jail hospital has a complete equipment of modern apparatus. There are five cots located in a large, airy apartment in the front of the main building. Dr. Stevens, the jail physician, will be in charge.

Although the jail is rather crowded at present the commissioners said today that they did not contemplate any immediate addition. There is plenty of room on the jail property for new buildings but the commissioners say if in future years more room is needed that they will probably build an addition to one of the present structures.

If the jail becomes overcrowded now the sheriff can transfer prisoners from the vicinity of Danbury to the Danbury jail. Senator Benjamin F. Elwell, by Governor Halsey, Mr. Taggart expects to leave for Washington in the near future.

## TAGGART TO FILL INDIANA VACANCY IN U. S. SENATE

Indianapolis, March 20—National Democratic Committeeman Taggart today was appointed United States senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Benjamin F. Elwell, by Governor Halsey. Mr. Taggart expects to leave for Washington in the near future.

## ROBINSON DID NOT THREATEN HIS LANDLADY

Letter Protesting Rent Increase Was "Friendly Tip," He Avers.

HE REFERRED TO INCREASED VALUES

Mrs. Wallenta Protests Assessors' Boost—Demands Readjustment.

City Clerk J. Alex H. Robinson opened a note awhile back. The missive was not scented with the perfume of violet soap, so popular in city hall. Nor was it reminiscent of soft soap. It was a firm, stern demand from Mrs. Frank Wallenta for more rent. She is a woman of property. She lives at 3327 Main street and is the owner of a number of dwellings which she rents, one of her tenants being the city clerk.

To the demand for more rent City Clerk Robinson replied with a letter of friendly advice, in which he suggested that it would be unwise upon the part of his landlady to raise rents, the suggestion, or the inference or the implication being that more rents meant more value, that values are prone to attract the attention of assessors, and that assessorial attention usually brings more taxes.

The board of assessors did increase Mrs. Wallenta's valuation. And then the board of relief announced an increase, which Mrs. Wallenta resented to such an extent that she employed an attorney to oppose it.

Mrs. Wallenta, instead of regarding City Clerk Robinson's letter as a friendly tip, filled with good fellowship, appears to have regarded it as a threat that her taxes would be raised if his rent was.

At any rate the city clerk and his landlady came to a separation. Mrs. Wallenta will soon cease to be City Clerk Robinson's landlady and he will soon stop paying her rent.

He will shortly move from the flat he has occupied for several years past at 500 Seaview avenue.

Several weeks before the board of assessors had completed their work, but at a time when it was certain many property holders were to receive large increases in their assessments, Mrs. Wallenta wrote a letter to Mr. Robinson telling him that the rent of his flat would be increased \$5 per month, due to the proposed increase in tax rate, the increased cost of labor, repairs, etc., to landlords of dwelling houses. Mrs. Wallenta owns 10 pieces of property in various parts of the city. She is intimated in her letter that Mr. Robinson intended to raise the rents of all her tenants.

On receipt of Mrs. Wallenta's letter Mr. Robinson promptly wrote back stating that he did not consider the increase in his rent warranted and also telling Mrs. Wallenta that it was the purpose of the assessors to increase the valuation on all property where the tax rate was increased. Mr. Robinson claims that his letter was couched in friendly terms and did not intend to convey a threat. He also claimed that he had made repairs to his flat at his own expense, which he otherwise felt his landlady in duty bound to make. Nevertheless Mrs. Wallenta decided the increase should stand. Therefore Mr. Robinson will seek another flat.

Mrs. Wallenta owns several pieces of property, most of them having two family houses. The tax assessors of this year placed a total valuation on her property of \$43,360. There is a soldier's exemption on this amount of \$1,000, making a total valuation of \$42,360 on which she is assessed. This is an increase of \$4,500 over last year when her property holdings were assessed at \$37,860.

Mr. Robinson's letter admitted he wrote the letter to Mrs. Wallenta and that he intended to move very soon. He denied the letter was written as a threat from one in public office, but said he had written it as a private citizen might write about a private affair. He said:

"Such an increase as Mrs. Wallenta made her tenants was very unfair. Her taxes were increased by \$70 per year. She asked me to pay \$70 of this \$70 and besides that she proposed to collect ten times that same amount from her other tenants. When I wrote Mrs. Wallenta I considered I was writing on my own private business in which the public has no interest."

Mrs. Wallenta employed an attorney to appear before the board of relief to protest against the increase in her assessment.

## PATRIA'S CAPTAIN SAYS SUBMARINE ATTACKED LINER

Washington, March 20—Affidavits taken by Collector Malone at New York, from the captain and crew of the French liner Patria reached the state department today, and all agree that an attempt to torpedo the liner without warning was made by an unknown submarine, as the ship was just out of Palermo for New York. No affidavits were taken from passengers.

**RUSSELL ESTATE \$6,400.**

Ann Elizabeth Russell left an estate of \$6,423.70 according to the inventory filed in the probate court by appraisers, John T. Hubbard and Stiles Goodsell. Property in Lewis street is in the list for \$5,500. There is \$553.70 cash in banks, jewelry valued at \$350 and household effects at \$25. George E. Hill and W. C. Russell are administrators.

## VILLA CHANGES COURSE IN RETREAT AS FORCES OF U. S. DRAW CLOSER

## HOUSE DEBATES MEASURE FOR ARMY OF 220,000 IN U. S. IN TIMES OF PEACE

Washington, March 20—Representative Kahn's amendment to the House army bill to make the peace strength of the army 220,000 men instead of 140,000 was taken up for two hours' debate today when the House resumed work on the measure.

As the amendment would bring the

## CHARITIES BOARD TO NAME SECOND FAMILY VISITOR

Graduate Nurse Scheduled For Election at Session of Commissioners.

According to the plans of the board of charities to be executed at their meeting at 4 o'clock this afternoon Miss Josephine V. Lillis, 773 William street, a graduate nurse at present located at St. Vincent's hospital, will be appointed to the newly created position of investigator of the outside poor. The position carries with it a salary of \$750. There is already one such woman investigator, Mrs. Mabel Godman.

Miss Lillis is the daughter of Michael J. Lillis, 773 William street. She is a graduate of a New York hospital. She has had considerable experience in this line and her work in New York city has repeatedly brought her in contact with poor and suffering patients in the metropolis. She is the choice of Commissioners Ford and Behrens. Mrs. Johannah Sney of 173 Lewis street had been mentioned for this post.

Another important action of the board will be to approve the ordering of a new automobile touring car for investigator Alexander F. Moroney. The board of apportionment this year has appropriated \$600 for the purpose. The old machine now used by the board will be turned in as part payment for the new car.

A contract calling for the transfer of sick patients from their home to the general hospitals will be granted Burke & Becker. The private ambulance of this concern will be used for this purpose. The contract pays \$1,500 a year.

Charles F. Kiefer, 1441 Stratford avenue, recently appointed director at the new Hillside Home at a salary of \$1,200 a year, began his duties at that institution this morning. He was recently appointed for a term of one year.

At the meeting, the board will order the renovation of the old isolation hospital at the town farm. This building will be refurbished and will be fitted up so as to accommodate at least 10 tubercular patients. The board of charities will take care of people suffering from this disease, expecting that the board of health may lend some assistance.

Bids for the refurbishing of Hillside Home will be opened by the Board of Contract and Supply and a report made to the charities board this afternoon.

## DEER SLAUGHTER 'SHOCKING', SAYS COMMISSIONER

Hartford, March 20—"It is simply shocking to see the condition in which deer are found throughout the state," said Superintendent John Crampton, of the Fish and Game Commission today, in referring to the state of the deer in Connecticut. The report of number of deer killed in 1915 was believed that twice as many more have been killed but not reported. Fairfield county had 196, Windham 143, Litchfield 297, Middlesex 125 and Tolland 88.

Superintendent Crampton said the condition of the lobster industry was causing some alarm. There was a falling off last year in the supply of lobsters taken from the New England coast of about \$85,000 pounds. It has been suggested to hold a convention of those interested in the industry in New England to see what could be done to save it from destruction and it was quite possible the convention would be held shortly.

**LOHMER TRIAL RESUMED**

Chicago, March 20.—The trial of William Lorimer, on charges of conspiracy in connection with the failure of the bank of which he was president, was resumed today. The trial was halted last Thursday because of illness of counsel for the defense.

**J. D. GRADY ILL.**

James D. Grady, railway mail clerk, living at 715 Main street, when in this city, is said to be greatly improved at Bridgeport hospital, where he has been a patient for nearly two weeks, suffering from a serious stomach affection.

## Turns to Eastward When in Danger of Being Hemmed in on All Sides By Union of Pershing's and Carranza's Armies—Use of Mexican Railways By United States Now Offers Delicate Problem—Bandit Leader May Abandon Men and Seek Refuge For Himself in Mountain Fastnesses, is Report.

El Paso, March 20—Villa has doubled east and south of Namiquipa, according to a telegram received by General Gavieta at Juarez, today.

He reports that Carranza troops are advancing from the south, while the Americans are continuing their march from the north in an effort to close the net around the bandit.

## Expect Clash With Villa Soon

Washington, March 20—Information that the American expeditionary force in Mexico had established contact with Francisco Villa and his band of outlaws was anxiously awaited today by the war department.

Latest unofficial advices received here said that Villa, fleeing before the American advance has reached his own country in the Guerrero district, where army officers say, he may elude his pursuers indefinitely.

They believe however, that if Villa makes a stand the campaign will be brought to a quick conclusion. But if he abandons his men officers say he could find a retreat in the nearby mountains, or, in the garb of a peon, go so far south as to make his apprehension impossible.

## USE OF MEXICAN RAILWAY SYSTEM IS ASKED BY U. S.

El Paso, Tex., March 20—The problem of granting the United States government permission to use Mexican railways to transport supplies to the American troops pursuing Francisco Villa overshadowed everything else in the Mexican situation here today. The request of the government for permission to use the railways was expected to be sent forward to Washington today.

A refusal will embarrass the operations of the American troops, while the granting of the request, it was declared, would be bound to be seriously misconstrued by a considerable section of the Mexican people and to be extended by the enemies of General Carranza.

The unexpectedly rapid advance of the expeditionary columns under General Pershing has forced the railroad and the issue. Americans familiar with the country into which the columns are now entering assert that it is imperative that the railroads be placed at their disposal for the bringing up of supplies.

After a conference with the operations of the American troops, while the granting of the request, it was declared, would be bound to be seriously misconstrued by a considerable section of the Mexican people and to be extended by the enemies of General Carranza.

## ASSASSIN FAILS IN ATTEMPT TO KILL PREMIER

Galveston, Tex., March 20—Immediate peace is in sight is the belief expressed in a message received from London by a Galveston shipping concern, cancelling arrangements for chartering a considerable amount of tonnage.

City Attorney William H. Comley, Jr., has sent an opinion to the ordinance committee in which he expresses the belief that the statutes already governing trespass are amply defined and that there is no need for a further city ordinance making trespass on private property a misdemeanor and increasing the penalty. Such an ordinance was proposed by Alderman R. N. Blakeslee some weeks ago and has since been before the committee for consideration. The committee asked the city attorney's opinion and will probably return an unfavorable report to the council tonight.

**Don't Need Ordinance On Trespass, Declares City Attorney Comley**

Washington, March 20—General Carranza has formally protested against American troops occupying Casas Grandes in their pursuit of Villa, and the American government has replied that the troops have no other town or cities in Mexico.

The protest and reply were included in an exchange of notes between Acting Secretary Polk of the state department and Eliseo Arredondo, ambassador designate to the United States from Mexico.

In asking the use of the Mexican railroads for that purpose it is pointed out that the Carranza government that similar permission was granted Carranza troops for the use of railroads in the United States last year. Mr. Polk declared today that the United States had not requested permission to take over any railroads in Mexico but had merely asked permission to transport supplies. He denied emphatically reports that the request of the United States was in any sense a demand or an ultimatum.

The administration realizes fully the difficulty of General Carranza's position because of feeling in Mexico. General reports from Mexico today were of a doubtful character. Mr. Polk denies emphatically reports that the government has any reliable information of plots to bring about armed intervention.

Sailing orders of the battleship Kentucky, which had been ordered from New Orleans to Vera Cruz, were changed today to send the ship to Galveston. Secretary Daniels said there was no need for the ship at Vera Cruz and that reports from the gulf coast of Mexico were optimistic.

**THE WEATHER**  
Fair and warmer tonight; Tuesday, cloudy and warmer, probably local snow or rain northwest winds, diminishing and becoming south.